

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1023

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Hamilton High School boys' basketball team upon winning the TSSAA Class AA State Boys' Basketball Championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize and applaud those successful high school sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors for this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable group of athletes is the Hamilton High School boys' basketball team, which recently won the 2018 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Class AA State Boys' Basketball Championship; and

WHEREAS, state championships are achieved only through hard work, dedication, and the ability to work together as a team and excel with a cooperative spirit, and the Hamilton Wildcats exhibited each of these rare qualities during their championship season; and

WHEREAS, traveling to the Murphy Center at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, the Wildcats made their way through the bracket by defeating Whites Creek High School 84-67 and Livingston Academy 81-36; and

WHEREAS, though down eight points in the final four minutes of the championship round, the Wildcats clawed their way to a narrow victory and defeated the Fulton High School Falcons 60-58; and

WHEREAS, this tremendous win caps the season at 36-2 and gives the Hamilton High School boys' basketball team its second state championship since 2015, having previously won the state title in the AAA Class; and

WHEREAS, the Wildcats will start their next season building upon a twenty-two game winning streak; and

WHEREAS, the members of this exemplary team are Jordan Johnson, Martrell Brooks, Delvin White, Kevin Brown, James De'Jesus, Daniel Thomas, Kevon McMahan, Anthony Burks, Julian Woods, Kelo Haynes, Antonio Hoggan, Martarius Tate, and Markwon Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, Martrell Brooks was named Most Valuable Player in part for his double double of twenty-one points and fourteen rebounds; and

WHEREAS, this team of champions undoubtedly benefited from the vast knowledge and steadfast leadership of its head coach, Will Smith, and assistant coaches, Anthony Echols, Leslie Gibson, and Terrence C. Robinson; and

WHEREAS, additional support for this fantastic team came from Executive Principal Elvin Bell, Athletic Director Jacqueline Smith, Director of Operations David Price, Director of Player Personnel Erricka Winford-Love, Manager Addaryll Houston, Manager Jala Merriwether, and Manager Uniqua Forrest; and

WHEREAS, these young men from Hamilton High School epitomize all that is good in today's student athletes, as they have achieved the highest level of success and shown the highest degree of character both in and out of the athletic arena; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Wildcats of Hamilton High School for serving as examples of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Hamilton High School boys' basketball team upon winning the TSSAA Class AA State Boys' Basketball Championship, applaud the team's tremendous athletic prowess, and extend to each member our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.